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CONSOLATIONS TO BRITISH SUBJECTS,

UNDER THE
BURDENS
OF
THE PRESENT WAR.

BY AN OLD STATESMAN,
BUT NOW A COUNTENANCER OF THE WAR.

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WHETHER the war was necessary, or unavoidable, I leave to be discussed by politicians and civilians; but since we are engaged in it, our business, as a commercial people, is to calculate the *loss* or *gain* we are likely to acquire or sustain by carrying it on.

Let us then recollect in the first place, that the real British objects of all our wars with France, since the glorious Revolution in 1688, have been the reduction of her naval power, by the capture or destruction of her ships of war, and the diminution of her foreign trade and fisheries, by which her naval power could only be repaired or supported; the cutting off or lessening her supplies of raw materials for her manufac-

tures, and vent for them when they were made, by seizing her colonies and possessions in the East and West Indies, in Africa and America ; and the restraining her influence over other European states, so as to prevent her obtaining alliances dangerous to this country, and advantages in trade prejudicial to our commerce and manufactures : and that the several wars we have waged with France since the revolution, *for the attainment of these objects, have burthened us with a national debt of TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY MILLIONS.* And let us then, in the second place, recollect how far those objects have been obtained.

And here our memories must be very treacherous indeed, if they do not readily supply us with abundant proofs that *not one of those objects* have ever been accomplished. For in the last war we saw a superior combined French and Spanish fleet enter our channel, while a number of transports and flat bottomed boats were ready in the French ports to have carried over a large body of troops to this island, if our fleet had ventured an engagement and been beat : her colonies and foreign possessions continued to furnish her with a *larger produce*, and took off a *greater quantity* of her manufactures, and gave employment to a *greater number* of shipping than ours, and her fisheries were at least upon a par with those of Great Britain. She had got almost *the whole* of the Levant or Turkey trade ; a *great superiority over us* in the Italian trade ; and the almost *exclusive*

exclusive supply of Spain and the immense Spanish territories in America.

She had obtained so complete an ascendant over Spain, Naples, Sicily, Genoa, and the other Italian states, that their sovereigns appeared to have no will but hers ; Austria was become a partner in their family compact. Russia, testified by her conduct in the last war, a predilection for her interests. Sweden was subsidized by her ; and she had so strong a faction in Holland as to over-rule the Stadholder, and menace a revolution in her favour. It is unnecessary to be more particular. The facts are notorious and incontrovertible. But now behold what that Providence which alone can order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men, by giving the French up to the delusions of their own wicked minds, has wrought for us, in a few months, beyond what all the schemes of our ablest statesmen, and all the efforts of our fleets and armies, and all the expenditure of our blood and treasures could effect in a century !

See the greatest part of the French navy surrendering itself to ours. See their second great naval arsenal putting itself, with all its stores, into our hands. See the rest of her ships of war confined to the single harbour of Brest, without officers, without subordination, and without naval stores. See also her colonies and foreign possessions either desolated by internal factions, or ready to surrender themselves to us, and their

their trading ships shut out from every port in Europe, and every material for manufacture withheld from them by foreign nations ; while in their frenzy they are unremittingly occupied in destroying their manufacturing towns, and those manufactures which their country furnishes the materials for ; and even sacrificing Lyons to Spitalfields ! See again Spain, and Naples, and Sicily, separated from France, and in close alliance with England ; giving us the supply of their vast consumption of linens, and of various woollen, and cotton, and leather manufactures, and of all sorts of iron wares, as well as of East India goods.

See also the whole of the Turkey trade presented to us ; and the Grand Seignor sending an ambassador to court our alliance. The United States of America too, finding themselves without any other power to look up to, are ready to settle an advantageous treaty of commerce and alliance with us.

Such are the present circumstances and prospects of England arising out of the French revolution and war !

But it may be said, the expences of the war will occasion fresh taxes, and our burdens will be greater than our benefits. No such thing. The war, after this year's campaign, if it should still continue, will be much circumscribed, and our portion of the expence

pence greatly reduced ; and it will, *itself*, furnish the means for defraying that expence without the imposition of any fresh taxes upon *us*; for, when we get the whole monopoly of West India and East India products in our own hands, we may oblige *foreigners* to pay such duties for them as will be a very sufficient fund for sinking both principal and interest of all the loans we may be obliged to make. And as all our manufactures will be so greatly increased, to supply all these vast new foreign demands, our revenue must rise with our increase of trade, and our national debt be speedily diminished when peace is restored.

And besides all these subjects of consolation, we have to congratulate ourselves on the loyalty and good sense the nation displayed in their late declarations of general satisfaction with our happy constitution, which must give all foreigners confidence in our security, and induce them to send their money here as to a place of safety ; while their own, and all their neighbouring states, are threatened with internal convulsions, in consequence of the *levelling* doctrines with which they are in some degree infected : and thus will our lands and our stocks rise, while our trade, agriculture, and manufactures, flourish to a degree beyond all former example, and exceed even our own conception.

These are not distant expectations. We shall see them realized in the course of a twelvemonth ; for as soon

soon as the great overstock of manufactures, which the late rage for speculation has occasioned, is got rid of, which will happen in a few months, the orders for foreign export will be greater than all our present hands can supply; and the disbanded troops and seamen, if peace should take place, will be gladly called in to their assistance. Let us then cheerfully submit to any temporary inconveniencies we may at present feel, and not repine at the continuance of a war which has already procured us such manifold and great advantages, and promises us still more and greater (more especially as its continuance must serve the more effectually to destroy the French manufactures, by rendering the whole people a nation of soldiers) but with minds duly sensible of our own happiness, and hearts exulting in the many blessings we enjoy under our excellent constitution, let us add to our unfeigned thankfulness to the great *giver of all good things*, dutiful obedience to the laws, and zealous attachment and firm loyalty to our gracious sovereign, the affectionate father of all his people, which is the sincere and friendly advice of an old statesman, but now

A Country Gentleman.

